

March 1, 2023

**Testimony on SB 798
Declaration of Rights - Right to Reproductive Freedom
Finance**

Position: Favorable

Common Cause Maryland is in favor of SB 798, which would constitutionally enshrine the rights of Marylanders to reproductive freedom.

A central component of an individual's rights to liberty and equality includes the fundamental right to reproductive liberty. This includes the right of the individual to make decisions about their medical needs with their chosen healthcare provider - specifically the right to make decisions related to preventing continuing or terminating a pregnancy.

As reproductive rights are being eroded across the country, the General Assembly must act affirmatively to ensure that all Marylanders have the fundamental right to reproductive liberty, regardless of what the Supreme Court or any other state determines. The Constitutional Amendment provides the highest possible level of protection of reproductive freedom in Maryland, and for these reasons we strongly urge a favorable report on SB 798.